A REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Tuesday, February 20. 1711.

I Have Examin'd the Article of Credit, as to who are or are not willing to support and defend her: Those People who have been displeas'd with this Author, for saying they will rather let the Ship sink than they will help to Pump, unless also they may be admitted to Steer, acknowledge it is wrong, by their Resentment at the Charge.

Since then, Gentlemen, we agree in this, that the Ship is to be kept a-float, that the Leaks are, if possible, to be stop'd, and the Sea (*the French*) from breaking in to sink the Vessel —— Let us join together so far for the common Safety, whether Whig or Tory, to keep the *French* out——It would be hard, that because we differ in many Things, we can agree in nothing; if your House is on Fire, I presume no Man will ask whether a Whig or Tory throws Water upon it; whether it be a High-Church Engine or a Low Church Engine, that is brought to play upon it, or whether the Car-Man that carries his Goods away, be a *Jacobite*, or for the present Government.

For my part, speaking of the War, it is to me the same Thing as if the Nation was on Fire; and I am for having all Hands join to put it out; a Man drowning will never ask, whether the Unsanctify'd Hands

of

of a *Mahometan*, or a *Jew*, or a *Chriſtian*, are ſtretch'd out to ſave him; 'tis the Hand of God does the Work, tho' the Paw of the Devil were the Inſtrument —— And indeed to ſpeak plain, without Partiality, Flattery, or Prejudice; let who will be in the Government, let who will be in the Adminiſtration, I cannot be of any Opinion but this, that he that aſſiſts at this Time, to leſſen or keep down, or farther to run down the Credit of this Nation——Does ſo far his utmoſt to deliver it up to *France*; whether he that endeavours to deliver us up to *France* is a Traytor, or an Incendiary or no, let others determine, *for calling Names is none of my Talent.*

The Credit of the Nation is, at this Time, *its Politick Life* — Money is the Sinews of the War; Credit is Money— Money is the Life and Soul of all our Oppoſition to *Popery*, of all our Alliance againſt *France*, and at this Time, *No Credit, no Money.*

The Credit of the Nation is the Fund of all our Proſperity; if Credit falls, all your Tow'ring Proſpects fall, all your Glory obtain'd by ſo many Victories, bought with ſo much Blood, rejoyc'd at with ſo much Noiſe, and improv'd againſt *France* with ſo much Boaſting, all goes back if your Credit ſinks; if your Credit falls, they are all loſt at once, and you are farther your from Port than when you firſt ſet out.

The Credit of the Nation is the Ship, in which is Embark'd not only all you have, but all you hope for—— What have you ventur'd all your Money upon when Credit flouriſh'd? If now the Ship ſink, all your Annuities, all your Exchequer Bills, all your Tallies, all your Loans are drowned in the Shipwreck, and irrecoverably loſt.

The Credit of the Nation, is the Glorious Peace you talk ſo much of—— What Peace can you expect if you have no Credit? *Pax queritur Bello*, is a known Maxim, *Peace is to be ſought for in the War*; but without Credit, you can make War with no Body, and no Body will make Peace with you—— For who will make Peace with thoſe that cannot defend themſelves?

What Evil Spirit infatuates this Nation? What Judgment from God is upon us, that we turn the Knife againſt our own Throats, and like Lunaticks in the State, turn *felo de ſe* upon our very Exiſtence? Heaven remove the Blindneſs that poſſeſſes the Mad Party-Men of the Age——of one Side and of the other —— One Party Curſes the Whigs, and ſays, *Damn them, we don't want them*, we can do all without them, we have Money enough, we have the Landed Men, and they can at any Time raiſe Money, and Money will either raiſe Credit or do without it; let the Whigs go to the Devil whither Dr. *Sacheverell* ſent them, we care not a Farthing, we need none of their Help—— and the like—— A hot, TOO HOT Whig, hears this, and he cries, *well, well*, you don't want our Help, and you ſhall not have it, *ſink*, and *drown* and *be damn'd*, and you will; Do ye think we'll help you, that have been us'd as we have been us'd, *by you* and your *Sacheverell*, and your Rabbles? NO, NO, go on, and ſee what you will bring *it to*——

And now, Gentlemen, between theſe two kinds of Mad-Men, were they enough of a Side to Rule the reſt, What do you think will become of the Nation? Are thoſe the Men that do the Devil's Work among us, or no? — The firſt break in upon Nature, and Raging with Madneſs and willfully blind, refuſe the Bread they cannot live without, deſpiſe the Hand that might keep them from drowning, and reject their Help they cannot do without—— The other break in upon the Chriſtian and upon the wiſe Man, and both to gratifie their Anger, Ruin their Country.

Sure the Mad-Men of both theſe Kinds will leſſen in Number, and the Infatuation will wear off by Experience; this is the Labour I undertake, that both may not ingulph themſelves and the whole Nation, into a Miſery they do not foreſee —— It is a hard Work, and thankleſs enough on both Sides I find it: Men are hardly drawn off from their Prejudices, and can very hardly forego their Party-Paſſions; but, Gentlemen, you muſt do it here, or you will

will be Deſtroyers and Murtherers of your Country and Poſterity.

As to your Diſtinctions of *Whig* and *Tory* in other Caſes, I have nothing to do with them, they are fatal enough any where, and wiſe Men wiſh they were not nam'd among us; but here they are Treaſon, here they are wilful Murther; in our private Diſſentions they divide us, *but here* they deſtroy us; in our common Buſineſs in the World they diſorder the Houſe, but here they pull it down; in our Legiſlative Capacities they ſhake the Conſtitution, but in Credit they DISSOLVE it: *Curſed be your Anger for it is Fierce, and your Wrath for it is Cruel*——If Party Strife is carried on to the Ruin of the Nation's Credit, it is carried on to the Nation's Deſtruction; for as you are a Nation Embark'd in War, you can ſtand no longer than your Credit ſtands.

You talk, Gentlemen, on both Sides, very Affectionately and Loyally of the Queen; and it is your Duty, not her Majeſty's Authority as Queen, Commands it from you only, but the Zeal and Affection her Majeſty has ſhewn for the Safety and Proſperity of the Nation, deſerves it from you; both Sides agree in this, you pray for her, you drink her Health, you publickly wiſh her Majeſty well; what you do privately, God knows!

But do not you mock God and your Sovereign, while you pray for her Majeſty's Life and proſperous Reign, and at the ſame Time riſe in Arms againſt the Publick Credit, which is the only Thing can make her Reign Glorious, Long, and Proſperous, nay, I may ſay, the only Thing that will make her able to Reign at all.

I think it is no Breach of my Duty or Reſpect to ſay, her Majeſty cannot Reign without Credit——— I am ſure the War cannot be carried on, *France* cannot be reduc'd without it; if the War cannot be carried on, the Pretender cannot be kept out; if the Pretender cannot be kept out, let any Man tell me how her Majeſty can be kept upon the Throne?

But ſuppoſe the Queen could juſt ſupport herſelf, and Strength of Hand without Strength of Money might keep her Majeſty on the Throne —— But what's become of your fine Words, the bright Adverbs of her Reign, the Gloriouſly, the Proſperouſly, and Succeſsfully, will theſe be kept, if you do not keep your Credit?

Dear Mad-Men, Examin your Circumſtances, and never let your Ship ſink for want of that little mutual Aſſiſtance, that is neceſſary for mutual Safety; if you will Quarrel in any Thing elſe, yet agree in this —— Never let the Town be burnt, becauſe you Tory won't quench the Whig's Houſe, or you Whig won't quench thes Tory's—— This is not Fighting with one another, but with your ſelves; not Ruining your Neighbours only, but your Wives and Children, and Families——— God from Heaven give you all a Sight of this Folly, and make you wiſer before *France* teaches you, and open your Eyes before your Enemies lend you Spectacles.

I do confeſs, of all the kinds of Poſſeſſion that I ever ſaw prevail in this Nation, and I have ſeen many, I never met with any like this, it is ſo prepoſterous and ſo abſurd, it expoſes the very Nation's Character; I am a great Way off while I am making theſe Obſervations; but were you to hear People talk of this at a diſtance, how Ridiculous, how Impolitick, how *True-born Engliſhman-like* it looks, you would a little bluſh at your ſelves; but above all, I have been pretty much of late, among your profeſs'd Enemies; and did you but ſee how they hug themſelves, with the View of your moſt certain and ſpeedy Ruin from this very Thing; how they laugh, how they look at one another, and pleaſe themſelves with it, when they hear the Bank fall, the Navy Debts run at large Diſcounts, Anticipations not fill, and Lottery Tickets ſell low ——For God's ſake, *for his Intereſt is concern'd in it*; for the Nation's ſake, *for her Ruin depends upon it*; for the Queen's ſake, *for her Crown is ſtak'd upon it*; for your own ſake, *for your All is in it*: Conſider this Matter, and learn, that the Publick Credit is every Man's near Concern, and he that Attempts to pull it down, is the Nation's Murtherer.

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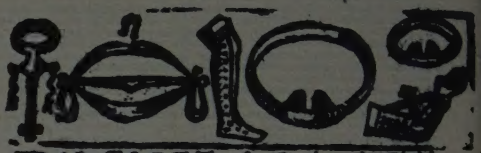

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